Over utilisation of railway tracks

4773. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over utilisation of Railway Tracks to the extent of 125 per cent would go against Railway Safety;

(b) whether rejected wagons and coaches are re-used without clearance from the NCW;

(c) whether this kind of rejected wagons and coaches are used almost to the 80 per cent to 90 per cent in the Southern Railway;

(d) the measures to avoid this situation; and

(e) whether among the railway accidents, it is found that human failure is the highest, and the special measures undertaken to curb this kind of failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Over utilization of sectional capacity in some case may lead to some what less availability of track for maintenance. However, safety of track is not allowed to be affected and in case of need suitable temporary speed restrictions are imposed to ensure safety.

(b) Sometimes, coaches and wagons rejected by Neutral Control Examiner (NCE) on account of not carrying out certain modifications, leaving minor deficiencies in scale of passenger amenities which do not affect safety, are permitted to be deployed for service. Such permission is given judiciously, so as not to detain rolling stock after overhaul in workshops, in the interest of overall availability of coaches and wagons for public use.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and adoption of new measures to improve safety is a continuous process. The measures being taken by Indian Railways to minimize incidence of accidents include adoption of suitable modern technology for interlocking and signaling systems, up-gradation of track and rolling stock, modernization of maintenance practices, replacement of over aged assets, up-gradation of training aids like simulators, checks on observance of safety precautions and provision of Anti Collision Device with continuous and sustained efforts, the number of accidents are coming down over the years.